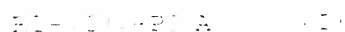


We claim:

1. A material according to the invention consisting of a lithographic printing plate by dry-etch process, the material comprising in the order given a lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface, an oleophilic imaging layer and a cross-linked hydrophilic upper layer, characterized in that said cross-linked hydrophilic upper layer comprises an organic compound corresponding to one of the following formula:



wherein n is 2 or 1; A is hydrogen, a counter ion or an alkyl group; R1 is an organic radical; and R2 is a macromolecular organic radical.

2. A material according to claim 1 wherein the organic compound derived is polystyrene sulfonic acid or a salt thereof, or polyvinyl phosphonic acid, or a salt thereof.
3. A material according to claim 1 wherein the oleophilic imaging layer has a dry coating weight between 0.1 and 0.75 g m².
4. A material according to claim 1 wherein the oleophilic imaging layer comprises a heat-sensitive initiator.
5. A material according to claim 1 wherein the oleophilic imaging layer comprises carbon black or graphite as its oleophilic compound.
6. A material according to claim 1 wherein the cross-linked hydrophilic upper layer comprises a polymer which is soluble in water, of low molecular weight, containing a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, an amine group or a carboxylic acid group, and a cross-linking agent.

7. A material according to claim 1 wherein the lithographic face is a grained and an etched aluminum support with a flexible layer of provided with a cross-linked hydrophilic upper layer.
8. A material according to claim 1 wherein the cross-linked hydrophilic upper layer has a dry thickness between 0.1 and 5 μm .
9. A direct-to-plate method of making a lithographic printing plate, comprising the steps of:
 - (i) providing a material according to any of the preceding claims;
 - (ii) image-wise exposing the material to an infrared laser beam having an intensity higher than 0.1 $\text{mW}/\mu\text{m}^2$;
 - (iii) contacting the material with fountain solution and ink.
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein, before or after step (iii), the material is mounted in a cylinder of a printing press.